## Rebecca Neville

Subject:

Launching Georgian Dream Facts

From: Georgian Dream < info@gdfacts.com >
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# Launching Georgian Dream Facts: Communicating the Track-Record of Georgia's Governing Party

Today, Georgia's ruling party Georgian Dream launches <u>GDFacts.com</u>, to promote the facts about the Georgian Dream-led government and to address disinformation in real-time.

In October, Georgians will go to the polls for <u>Parliamentary elections</u>. The latest polling conducted by the <u>UK-based Survation</u> pollster indicates a majority of Georgians plan to vote for Georgian Dream at the elections. The public strongly supports Georgian Dream's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the strong economic track record and the implementation of democratic reforms. Georgian Dream's ambition to become a member of NATO and the European Union is supported by <u>80 per cent of Georgians</u>.

Unfortunately, disinformation targeted at Georgian Dream is rife, ahead of the elections. This deserves to be corrected, so that facts and accuracy can prevail as part of the democratic debate.

The Georgian Dream-led government is focused on addressing the issues that matter most to the people of Georgia: stable and secure development, economic growth, and jobs and investment.

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Georgian Dream is 100% committed to advancing towards our application for membership of the European Union, enhancing and deepening our cooperation with NATO and the Western Alliance, and reducing regional tensions to ensure stability and security for Georgian citizens and businesses.

Let's be clear about the Georgian Dream-led government's record of accomplishments:

- Economic reforms praised by the <u>World Bank</u> and <u>IMF</u>
- Highest GNI in the region, and described by the World Bank as a "star reformer"
- <u>Seventh best country in the world</u> to do business, according to official rankings from World Bank and IBRD
- Electoral reforms praised and welcomed by <u>US</u>, <u>EU</u> and <u>NATO</u>
- <u>Successful accession</u> to NATO's cybersecurity platform, to better protect Georgia's security
- Enhancing the rule of law, and cracking down on corruption, lifting
   Georgia to 12<sup>th</sup> place globally in the <u>Economic Freedom Index</u>, published annually by Heritage Foundation
- Association Agreement with the EU, including a <u>Deep & Comprehensive</u>
   <u>Free Trade Agreement</u>, and visa free travel to Europe

 Memorandum on Deepening the Defense and Security Partnership between the United States and Georgia in 2016 and the Georgia Defense Readiness Program in 2017.

Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for Georgia's opposition parties – led by the United National Movement and former Georgian president, Mikheil Saakashvili. With support from European Georgia and other Opposition parties, the UNM is running an international smear campaign that is irresponsible and dangerous.

As part of this campaign, the UNM tried to block Georgia's democratic progress. Opposition parties attempted to <u>sabotage the electoral reform</u> that was a core element of the March 8 Agreement <u>facilitated by the US and EU</u>. The UNM and European Georgia made promises on March 8<sup>th</sup> to Georgia's international partners, and to the Georgian people. Yet, they shamefully betrayed those promises to the Georgian people when they boycotted Parliamentary votes on the democratic reform.

This is deeply unfortunate, and severely misguided. The Opposition parties have become an obstacle to the democratic reforms, national unity and free and fair elections. Their partisan politicking has weakened the cause of democracy and stability in Georgia. Why would Georgia's international allies ever trust the radical Opposition parties again, after this fiasco?

Here are the facts about Georgian Dream:

## **Our Commitment to Democracy**

The March 8 Agreement on electoral reform is a win-win for the
Georgian People and for Georgia's young, vibrant Democracy. Georgian
Dream proudly voted in favour of the reform, while opposition parties
attempted to sabotage this essential reform. The agreement has been
endorsed by the US, EU and NATO. All Georgians stand together in our
commitment to Democracy and free and fair elections.

## Our Commitment to Free and Fair Elections

- The June Parliamentary debate and vote on the Constitutional
   Amendments paved the way for 2020 elections which will now be conducted under a mixed system of proportional and majoritarian voting, ensuring greater representation in the Parliament.
- There are currently 150 seats in Georgia's Parliament. Seats are divided between those that are elected based on "lists" and those that are elected based on "majoritarian" criteria. The current allocation between the two categories is 77/73. For the October 2020 elections, this will evolve to 120/30.
- This is a balanced and pragmatic reform, facilitated and supported by the US and EU, which will ensure Georgia's continuation as a vibrant, multi-party democracy.
- This reform underscores Georgian Dream's commitment to free and fair elections. Georgian Dream has won the past two free elections with the support of a majority of Georgians. We are confident that our track record of success will be once again supported by the Georgian people in the forthcoming October elections.

## Our Commitment to Sustainable Economic Opportunities

• Georgian Dream has powered an economic renaissance while fighting corruption that for too long has plagued Georgia. Poverty has been <u>cut in half</u> from 32.5 percent in 2006 to 16.3 percent in 2017. The World Bank says Georgia is #7 globally in the World Bank's "Doing Business" rankings – that <u>outpaces the UK and Australia</u>, and is well above 26 of the 27 EU Member States. The Heritage Foundation's <u>Annual Freedom Index</u> ranks Georgia's economic freedom score a 77.1, making its economy the 12th freest in the 2020 Index, and ranked 6th among 45 countries in the European region.

## Our Commitment to the Western Alliance

• Georgian Dream's commitment to a pro-Western path for Georgia is unwavering. The Georgian Dream government remains fully committed to both the ideals & values of the West, and the strategic partnership with our allies. Our commitment to the Western Alliance, to NATO and to our American, European, and British partners has never been stronger than today, under the Georgian Dream-led government. Georgia is the Alliance's steadfast ally in the Black Sea region.

We welcome you to #GDFacts and hope you will join us in working to cut through the disinformation and understand the clear track record of achievement and progress made by the Georgian Dream party and its leaders.

Join Us! #GDFacts







**NOTE:** These materials are distributed by DCI Group AZ, L.L.C. for Political Union of Citizens "Georgian Dream - Democratic Georgia," and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

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